

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 11 have been amended above. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Response to Restriction

The Examiner has required restriction between five sets of distinct species as follows:

Species I: The pneumatic support embodiment of FIGURES 1a and 1b;

Species II: The pneumatic support embodiment of FIGURES 2a and 2b;

Species III: The pneumatic support embodiment of FIGURES 3a and 3b;

Species IV: The pneumatic support embodiment of FIGURES 4a and 4b; and

Species V: The pneumatic support embodiment of FIGURE 14.

In addition, the Examiner has required an additional election of three subspecies. With respect to the first subspecies, the Examiner has required an election between the embodiment presented in FIGURE 5 and the embodiment presented in FIGURE 6. With respect to the second subspecies, the Examiner has required an election between the embodiment presented in FIGURE 8, the embodiment presented in FIGURE 9, and the embodiment presented in FIGURE 10. With respect to the third subspecies, the Examiner has required an election between the embodiment presented in FIGURE 11, the embodiment presented in FIGURE 12, and the embodiment presented in FIGURE 13.

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed July 6, 2009, Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, Species II relating to the pneumatic support embodied in FIGURES 2a and 2b. In addition, Applicant elects the subspecies embodied in FIGURE 6, the subspecies embodied in FIGURE 8, and the subspecies embodied in FIGURE 11. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 5-7, 11-13, and 16-17 correspond to this election.

Claims 3-4, 8-10, and 14-15 are hereby withdrawn from consideration. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claim sets.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended is now generic. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended above to require, at least two load-bearing elements wherein at least one of the at least two load-bearing elements is operable to support a compression load. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is depicted in each of the species and subspecies referenced by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that these claim amendments are not made for any reason related to any statutory requirements for patentability. These claim amendments are made solely to more completely claim that which the Applicant is entitled. Applicant's invention should only be considered limited by the claims as they now exist and the equivalents thereof. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments made herein.

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Respectfully submitted,

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